

Challenges in Arizona: *Health Information Exchange and HIPAA*

Arizona Integrated Model Forum
January 26, 2011

Melissa A. Rutala, MPH
Chief Executive Officer
Arizona Health-e Connection

Agenda

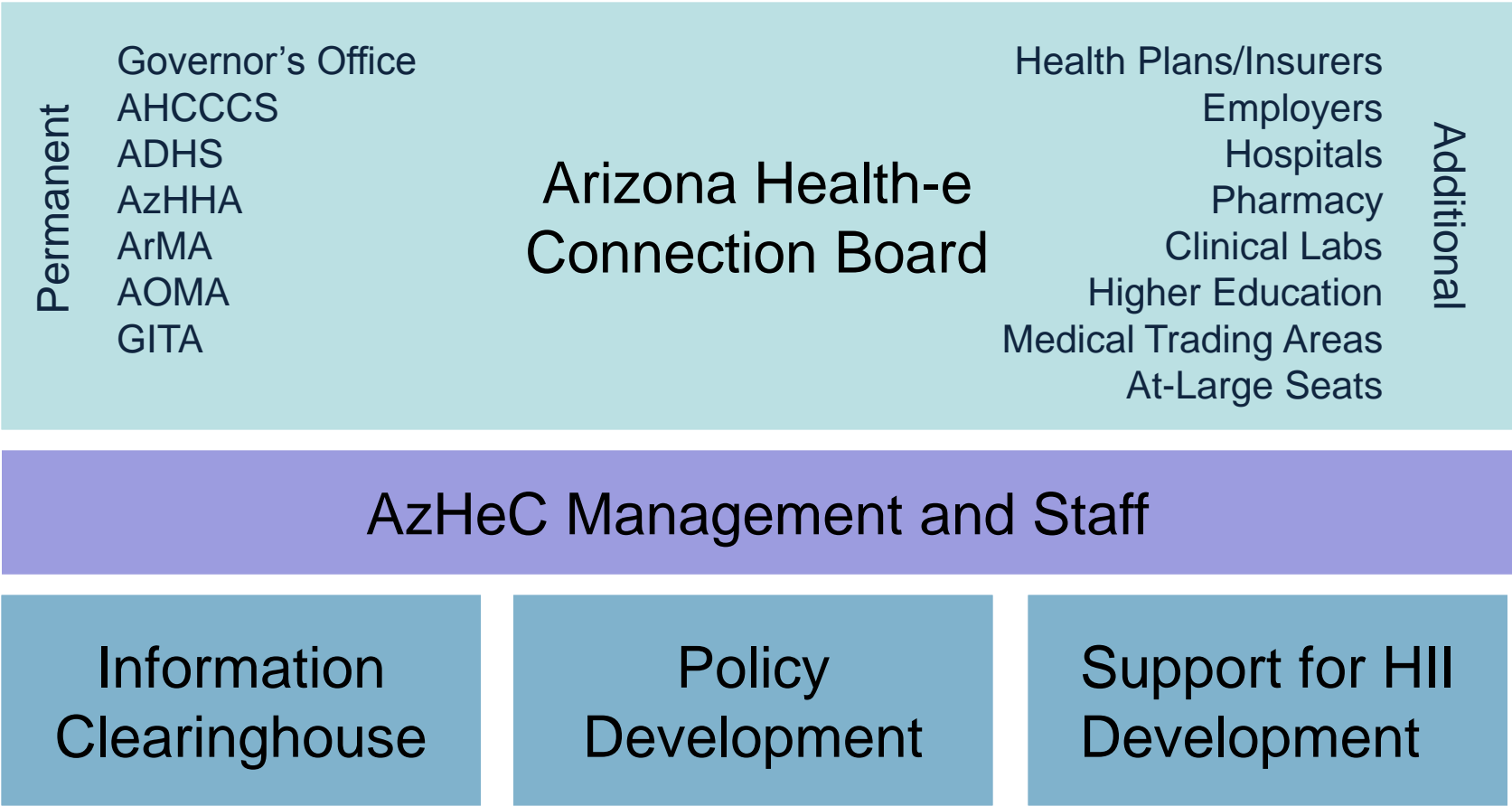
- Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC) Overview
- Arizona's HIT and HIE activities
- Challenges and Successful Strategies
- Next Steps

Arizona Health-e Connection Overview

*Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC)
exists to
Convene, Coordinate and Communicate
for Health Information Infrastructure
improvements that affect every Arizonan*



AzHeC Governance Structure and Strategic Direction



AzHeC Vision & Mission

VISION

Arizona Health-e Connection is the international model for facilitation of Health Information Infrastructure development and Implementation.

MISSION

To facilitate the design and implementation of integrated statewide Health Information Technology and Health Information Exchange that supports the information needs of all healthcare stakeholders to reduce healthcare costs, improve patient safety, and improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare and public health in Arizona.

Definitions- HII, HIE and HIT

HII

Health Information Infrastructure

The wider arena of policies, procedures, technologies and industry standards that facilitate secure and accurate online sharing of electronic medical information between providers, payors and ultimately, patients and their guardians via HIE/HIT.

HIE

Health Information Exchange “The Network”

The electronic movement of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

HIT

Health Information Technology “The Record”

Use of technology to support storage, retrieval, sharing, and use of healthcare information for communication and decision making within healthcare organizations.

Definitions - Network Terms

HIE

Health Information Exchange

The electronic movement of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

HIO

Health Information Organization

An organization that oversees and governs the exchange at health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

RHIO

Regional Health Information Organization

A health information organization that brings together healthcare stakeholders within a defined geographic area and governs health information exchange among them for the purpose of improving health and care in that community.

Source: National Alliance for Health Information Technology Report to HHS/ONC

Definitions - Records Terms

EMR

Electronic Medical Record

An electronic record of health-related information on an individual that can be created, gathered, managed and consulted by authorized clinicians and staff within one healthcare organization.

EHR

Electronic Health Record

An electronic record of health-related information on an individual that conforms to nationally recognized interoperability standards and that can be created, managed and consulted by authorized clinicians and staff across more than one healthcare organization.

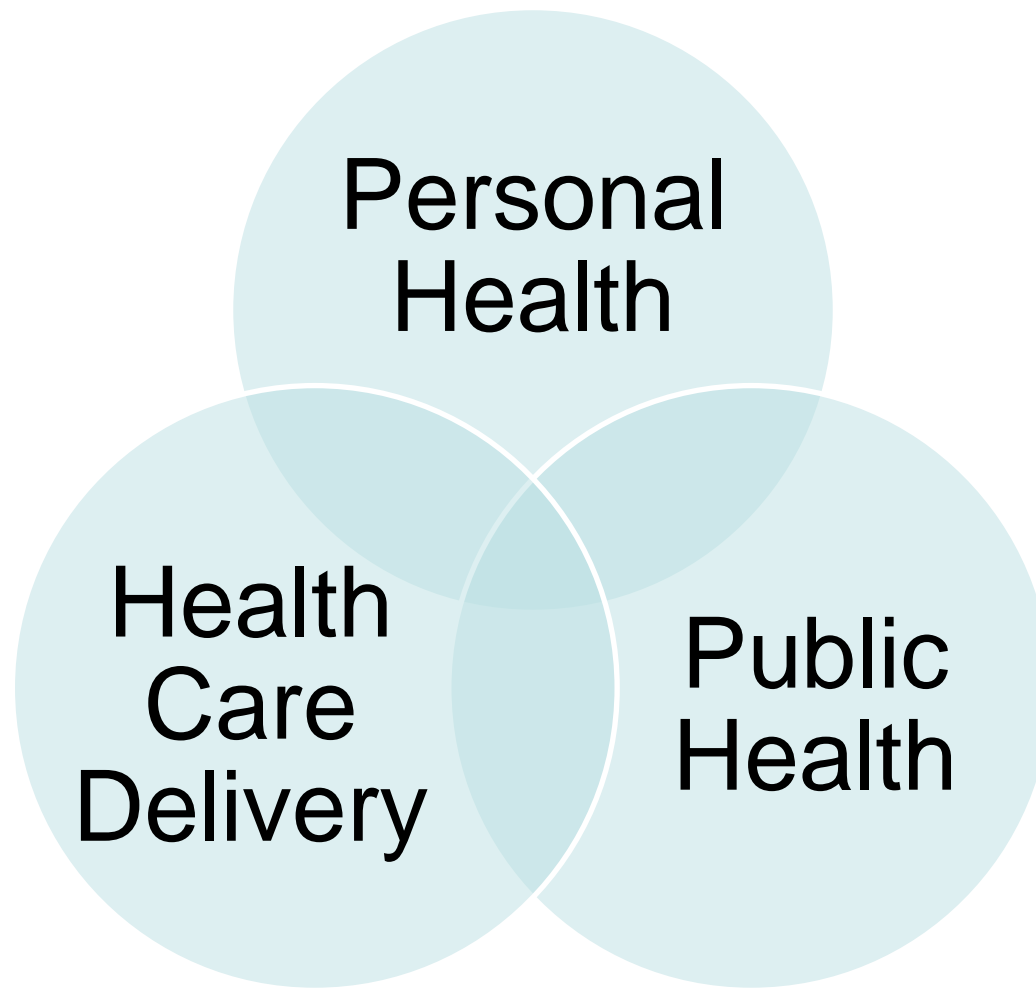
PHR

Personal Health Record

An electronic record of health-related information on an individual that conforms to nationally recognized interoperability standards and that can be drawn from multiple sources while being managed, shared and controlled by the individual.

Source: National Alliance for Health Information Technology Report to HHS/ONC

Health Information Infrastructure



Arizona's HIT and HIE Activities

Arizona HIT and HIE Activities

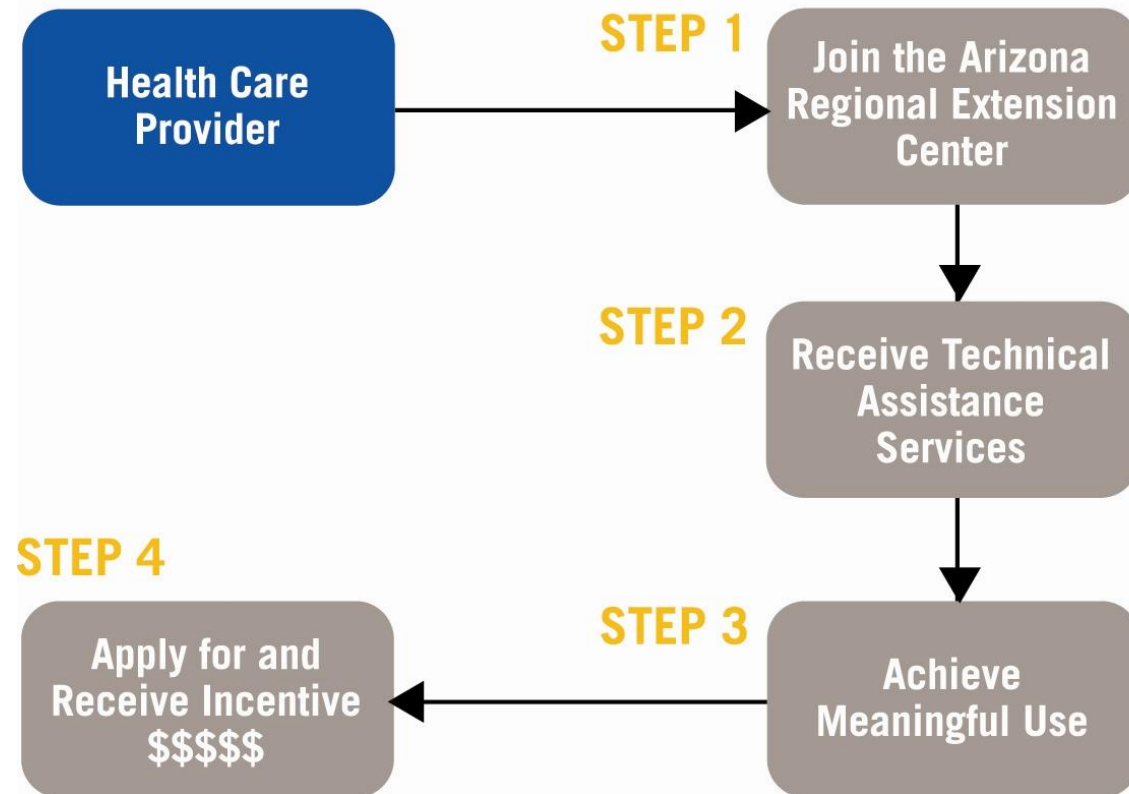
- Health Information Exchange (HIE) State Cooperative Agreement Program
 - Governor's Office of Health Information Exchange (GOHIE)
- Arizona Regional Extension Center (REC)
 - AzHeC grant recipient for statewide program
- Health Information Network of Arizona (HINAz)
 - Statewide health information organization
 - To begin operations soon

Arizona HIT and HIE Activities (continued)

- Policy Development- legislation, consumer consent, privacy & security issues
 - AzHeC is the lead in these areas
- Coordination and Distribution of Medicaid Meaningful Use \$\$
 - AHCCCS managing and leading
 - Coordinating with the REC program

Arizona Regional Extension Center (REC)

Regional Extension Center Provider Assistance Process



REC Services

1 Plan

Readiness
Assessment

EHR System
Selection

2 Assess/Plan

Practice
Workflow
Redesign

HIT Education

3 Execute

EHR System
Implementation
and Prj Mgt

Partnering
with State and
Local HIEs

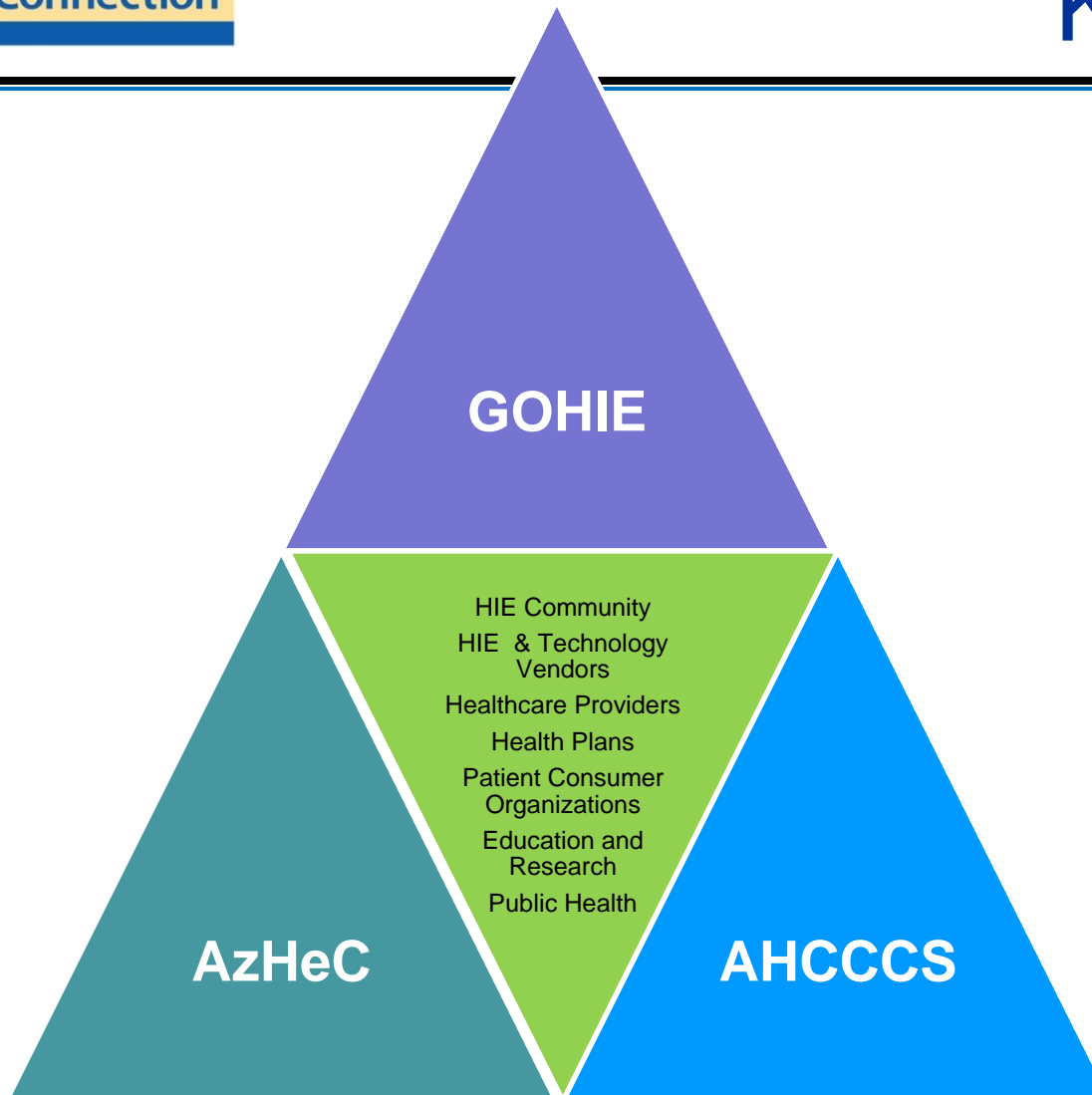
4 Use, Evolve, Optimize

Achieving
Meaningful
Use

Privacy and
Security Best
Practices

Services for those with a Certified EHR
or with No EHR

Coordination is Key!



Challenges and Successful Strategies

Challenges

- Legislative barriers
 - Current statute could be interpreted as not permitting disclosure of mental health information to a health information organization (HIO)
 - Many providers believe mental health information is essential to provide quality of care to their patients
- Ensuring privacy & security
- Behavioral health stakeholder involvement
- Provider education and awareness is key!

Successful Strategies

- 2011 Legislative Package
 - Removes barriers to health information exchange, with necessary privacy & security
 - Add provision for patients to “opt-out” of participating
 - Adds permissible disclosures to allow for HIO to be vehicle for exchange, as long as:
 - Business associate agreement is in place, which requires person or entity to protect the confidentiality of patient information, as required by HIPAA
 - Subject to penalties and enforcement available under HIPAA

Successful Strategies (continued)

- 2011 Legislative Package
 - Mental health information statute currently does not contain immunity for good faith disclosure of information
 - AzHeC proposes to add such an immunity provision, which will increase the willingness to share information through HIE for continuity of care.
 - All revisions will not affect information held by alcohol and substance abuse treatment programs, which continues to be protected by the federal substance abuse treatment regs (42 C.F.R. Part 2)

Next Steps

Other Considerations & Next Steps

- Privacy and security protections
 - Privacy and security a huge priority at state and national level
 - Continuing to take all precautions when developing health information exchange capabilities
- Behavioral health stakeholder involvement
 - Have had some to date, but more is desired!
 - Get involved in AzHeC to be part of the discussion
- Provider education and awareness
 - Regional Extension Center will support

Summary

- HIT is here NOW! Unprecedented adoption of EHRs, HIE, etc. in next 5-10 years
- Need to ensure coordination and collaboration on all aspects of care delivery
- Encourage continued conversation of challenges/barriers and involvement of all stakeholders

How to Get Involved

- Sign up for AzHeC newsletter at www.azhec.org to stay “in the loop”
- Consider joining AzHeC
 - Member or supporter options available
- New 2011 opportunities to be actively involved COMING SOON!
- Western States Health-e Connection Summit & Trade Show
 - April 11-13, 2011, Phoenix Convention Center

Arizona's Point of Coordination

www.azhec.org

info@azhec.org

602-688-7200

